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from the papal treasury large sums for which afterward he, instead of his master was held responsible. Fontana's description of the moving of the great obelisk is one of the most interesting stories in sixteenth century literature. He had been a friend of Sixtus when the architect was only a mason's boy and the future Pope was merely Felice Peretti, who had himself been a farmer's boy.

The style of this book is somewhat fanciful; whether that is an addition to its interest or a diminution of it is a question of taste. But its information is solid, its statements careful, and its description lucid. Through it all, moreover, runs the charm of Italy, the mingled influence of its centuries of varied history, its great works of science, art, learning, and thought; its sun, skies, mountains and trees; its ruined monuments and its modern regeneration.

E. P. CHEYNEY.

University of Pennsylvania.

Robinson, E. V. *Commercial Geography.* Pp. lix, 455. Price, \$1.25. Chicago: Rand McNally & Co., 1910.

The author defines clearly in the preface his conception of commercial geography as to "its purpose, its scope and its appropriate method of treatment." That he approaches the subject from a new viewpoint will be obvious from the following extracts. "Commercial geography is the study of the localization of industries;" "Commercial geography has in general no concern with the machinery of exchange or the technique of trade, nor with industrial processes, unless some of these become factors in the localization of industry." In our opinion, these restrictions rule out some material essential for the most constructive adaptation of the subject in advanced courses. It is difficult to conceive where the "machinery of exchange" and "the technique of trade" would find an appropriate place if they have no place in a geographic study of the commerce necessitating the exchange facilities.

The size, arrangement and content of the book indicate that it was designed for use in high schools and colleges offering a one or a half-year course in commercial geography. Part I is a discussion of "The Growth and Factors of Commerce" and treats in a very interesting and suggestive way the historical beginnings and growth of commerce; the influence of climate, soil, geographic situation and topography; how commerce depends on economic forces; transportation; and raw materials of commerce. Part II is a regional study of the geography and commerce of "Continents and Countries," beginning with the United States. The countries, or the geographic divisions of the country, are discussed with reference to geographic controls, industries, transportation and commerce. Part III is an appendix of statistical tables and a conveniently arranged index. The illustrations are well selected and executed, and the ninety-two maps constitute a representative series so valuable to teachers and students as to deserve special mention.

The text is supplemented by a pamphlet of *problems, topics*, and a classified *bibliography*, which the teacher can either use as a guide for elaborating the subject, or place in the hands of the students.

Though many geographers will find difficulty in accepting the author's restrictions on the scope of commercial geography as expressed in the preface, they are well taken for a book of this type and grade. As a whole it is a highly satisfactory text-book, comparing favorably with the best which have been previously published.

G. T. SURFACE.

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Smart, W. *Economic Annals of the Nineteenth Century, 1801-1820.* Pp. xxxvi, 778. Price, \$6.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

This volume is a most useful addition to the literature of the economic history of Great Britain. In his work as a member of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and the Relief of Distress, Professor Smart came to realize the imperative need of more detailed information concerning "the history of the working world," in order to understand why poverty has existed and still persists. He decided to use "the remainder of his years to help on the science" of economics by writing the annals of the economic history of England during the nineteenth century.

The author's materials are drawn mainly from "Hansard's Debates" which have evidently been studied from cover to cover. The other fruitful sources of information were the "innumerable reports of committees and commissions." In making his record of economic events in England during the first twenty years of the century Professor Smart has given prominence to three questions—protection, the "cyclical movement" (ebb and flow of prosperity), and taxation.

An English economist, using parliamentary debates for his material, would naturally give much space, in an economic annals of the years 1800 to 1820, to Adam Smith's doctrines and to the agitation for free trade. It is probable that the industrial and social progress of the United Kingdom during those years was less influenced by fiscal legislation than economists are wont to assume; but the burdens placed upon industry by taxation of all kind during the prolonged period of the Napoleonic wars were a serious handicap to business and an account of the economic history of those years must needs pay special attention to the theories and practice of taxation.

The attention of public men and writers in England from 1800 to 1815 was not so much upon domestic economic affairs as upon the life and death struggle against Napoleon. For this reason, as Professor Smart says, "the domestic annals were very scanty—nobody apparently thinking it worth while to record the humbler events at home when the destiny of Europe was being determined on the continent. It is but natural that this first volume of the nineteenth century economic annals should devote much space to England's share in the war against Napoleon. That war meant heavy taxes, high prices, and curtailed markets. "In a sense, the history of the war during